

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 24, 2005, Applicant proposes to amend his application and requests reconsideration in view of the proposed amendment and the following remarks. No claims are proposed to be added or cancelled so that claims 1-14 remain pending.

Applicant notes that claims 4, 7, 12, and 13 have been indicated to be allowable. No comment is made on those claims and, at this time, Applicant does not propose rewriting in independent form any of those claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 as indefinite for use of the word "that". According to the Examiner, he could not determine the antecedent. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection. However, in order to advance the prosecution, the word "that" is replaced with the words "the respective". This change does not make any substantive amendment of either of the two independent claims 1 and 2.

The invention was explained in the previous amendment. That explanation is reproduced below with certain emphasis.

The invention concerns a method and apparatus for receiving and decoding information that is typically employed in reproduction of audio and video. In the course of processing this data by decoding the data, attributes of the data must be determined so that appropriate processing can occur in the course of a digital-to-analog conversion of the data for its reproduction. These attributes can change dynamically leading to difficulties in processing the data when, as in the prior art, the attributes are carried along with respective decoded data.

In the method and apparatus according to the invention, the coded data is received and decoded. Then, as the decoding of sample data occurs, various pluralities of sample data are assembled, i.e., **grouped**, into respective blocks. Control information is added to each of the blocks, rather than to each of the sample data. The blocks may be temporarily stored in the course of signal processing because of the necessity of synchronizing video and audio data. After the storage of the blocks, the sample data is output based upon, i.e., with reference to, the control information for the respective block. By maintaining that control information, i.e., attributes, of the sample data within the group, in a single unit pertaining to an entire group, the quantity of data transmitted within the apparatus and the method is substantially reduced, improving the data rate of the processing.

In the specifically illustrated embodiment of the invention, a CPU 13 functions as a decoding unit that not only decodes sample data that is received but also groups respective pluralities of the sample data into blocks. The CPU may separate the data into

video and audio data streams. The CPU 13 also adds the control information to the respective blocks that are assembled from the pluralities of sample data, with the control information containing attributes with respect to the sample data contained within a particular block. In the illustrated embodiment, an SDRAM 16 and an SDRAM interface section 18 function as a storage unit for temporarily storing the blocks that include the control information. The stored blocks are retrieved and reproduced through an audio converting section 17 which provides an output. This conversion occurs in conjunction with the attributes of the sample data, according to a particular block that is retrieved from storage, based on the control information.

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 were newly rejected as anticipated by Fujii et al. (U.S. Patent 5,966,385, hereinafter Fujii). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In rejecting claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 as anticipated, the Examiner cited two different parts of Fujii. The first part at column 4, lines 3-25 is merely a part of the Summary of the Invention section of that patent and is not particularly specific. The other cited part of Fujii consists of claims 1, 7, 11, and 13 of Fujii. Again, the language of these claims is very similar to the cited portion of the Summary of the Invention section. The Examiner did not point out with respect to any particular embodiments described in Fujii where various elements of the rejected claims might be found.

The Examiner asserted that Fujii described "grouping respective pluralities of the sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks" in the cited portion of the Fujii specification and claims. In fact, there is no description at either of those locations of any grouping, i.e., the formation of respective blocks of pluralities of sample data, after that sample data has been decoded. Presumably, if there were such a disclosure, the Examiner would have pointed to the disclosure by column and line number. Of course, to anticipate any pending claim, Fujii must disclose every limitation of the rejected claim. Because of the absence of at least this portion of the claimed invention from Fujii, the rejection is erroneous and cannot properly be maintained.

Dependent claims 6, 8, 9, and 11 were rejected as unpatentable over Fujii in view of Ishii et al. (published U.S. patent application 2003/0189879, hereinafter Ishii). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

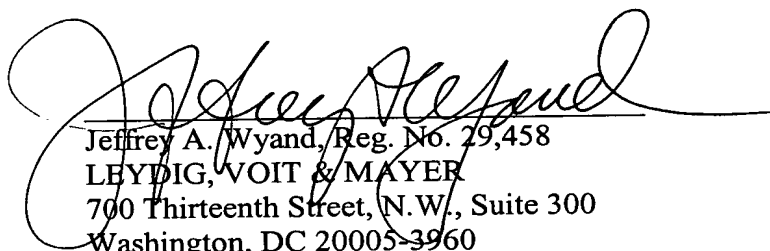
In citing Ishii, the Examiner directed attention to one of the figures and three particular paragraphs of Ishii. However, none of that disclosure describes decoding coded sample data followed by grouping of respective pluralities of the sample data, after decoding, into respective blocks, much less adding to the respective blocks particular control information relating to attributes of the plurality of sample data. In other words, Ishii fails to disclose the part of claims 1 and 2 that is missing from Fujii. It follows,

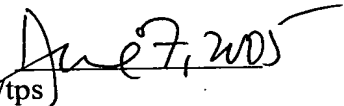
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because Fujii does not anticipate either of amended claims 1 and 2 and Ishii fails to supply the parts of Fujii that appear in those independent claims, that both of the rejections are erroneous. Therefore, upon reconsideration, all of claims 1-14 should be allowed.

In the foregoing amendment, the only changes to claims 1 and 2 relate to informalities. While Applicant firmly believes that the claims are not indefinite, the change made affects only the issue of clarity, not any issue of substance. Therefore, this Amendment should be entered because it places the application in form for allowance or, by removing a potential issue, in better form in the event of an appeal.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Wyand, Reg. No. 29,458
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: 
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Amendment or ROA - Final (Rev. 1/14/05)